that portion of Scotland which lies between the Forth and Clyde on the north, and the English Border, is in the proud position of having reared a larger number of famous men in the later Victorian era than any other stretch of country of equal size." Other conclusions are "that agricultural districts are usually richer in great men than manufacturing or mining parts." And that, "if a line be drawn through the centre of Lincolnshire, it will be found that the poetry of the nation is to the southern side of that division"; it being regarded that, with a few notable exceptions, music, poetry, and art reach their highest development in the south, while theology, science, and engineering predominate in higher latitudes. J. J.

Facts and Opinions relating to the Deaf, from America. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL. London. 8vo, pp. 196.

This report to the Royal Commission of the British Government to inquire into the condition of the deaf, is of great value to students of this interesting class of defectives. Five questions are treated, mainly by the statistical method and the collation of the opinions of experts. 1. Visible speech. The fact that of 31 institutions in which it has been introduced it has been continued in only 17, argues against its universal applicability. 2. The development of latent powers of hearing in the partially deaf is ably discussed, with the result that the future holds out bright prospects in this direction. 3. The most important topic is that of the heredity of the deaf-mute as a class. Here the experience of superintendents of asylums goes to reducing the evil effects of intermarriage, some holding that the additional happiness thus brought about is more than a compensation for the slightly increased chances of a deaf offspring; others holding that consanguinity is a more potent factor than deaf-mutism, while still others make a difference between the congenitally deaf and those who become so later in life. The scientists, on the other hand, are unanimous in their agreement with Prof. Bell's position that the marriage of the deaf-mute with the deaf-mute is an ever increasing factor in the production of deaf-mutism, and that, if continued, it must end in establishing a deaf-mute variety of the human species. 4 and 5. Under these heads various usages and modes of instruction of different schools are summarized. J. J.

A Method of Examining Children in Schools as to their Development and Brain Condition. FRANCIS WARNER. Brit. Med. Jour., Sept. 22, 1888.

In the rapid observation of children in these particulars, very much can be learned by attention to two classes of facts: "(*a*) the form, proportions, and texture of the visible parts of the body; and (*b*) the signs of action of the central nerve-system, as seen in the muscles producing movements or attitudes or balances of nerve-muscular action." The first shows the development and nutrition; and in the condition of the special features often lie indications of mental weakness. The second shows, in variations from the normal, nerve-muscle weakness, fatigue, and excitability. Besides such things as these and starvation, the doctor has found hare-lip, congenital cyanosis, rickets of the skull, brain disease with congenital syphilis, all grades of idiots, and, with the help of the teacher, *petit mal*. In the Day Industrial School, of Liverpool, 14 per cent of the

281 children showed defective development or nervous symptoms, but there was little exhaustion. Of the 106 children in one school for truants, 40 per cent were defective; of the 47 in another school, 6 boys of eight pointed out as "specially bad or troublesome" seemed to have some physical basis for it, and ten "good, quiet and decent" boys showed signs of nerve weakness.

Eye-mindedness and Ear-mindedness. JOSEPH JASTROW, Ph. D. Pop. Science Monthly, Sept. 1888.

This paper is an interesting résumé of present information, increased from the author's own observation, on the effect on the mental complexion of a predominance of sight, hearing, or, more briefly, of touch. An eye-minded man learns easiest and does his best work with his eyes, an ear-minded man with his ears. The importance of regarding these differences in the conduct of mental life, either one's own or that of pupils, sets in a practical light the methods of determining the dominant sense, to which Prof. Jastrow devotes considerable space.

Genius and Precocity. JOSEPH JASTROW, Ph. D. Journal of Education (London), July 1, 1888.

This paper follows the lines of that of Sully (*Nineteenth Century*, June, 1886); but by stricter definitions of precocity and greatness, the author is able to go a step beyond the connection there demonstrated between precocity and eminence. He shows that among men of transcendent greatness (men of action and statesmen are excluded in both papers), the proportion of the precocious is nearly twice as great as among the merely eminent. An examination of the biographies of the specially precocious shows that while they produce work earlier than other great men (at about 15½ years on the average), they do not do great work earlier (29½ years), and do their greatest work, if anything, later (46½ years as against 44½), and that they do not die earlier. On the other hand, if the list is made still more exclusive, reduced to veritable *Wunderkinder* (the numerical basis being now, of course, small), the age of producing work of these degrees of excellence is decreased, for the great work and the greatest work, by about four years, and for the age at death by as many as six.

Insomnia and Other Disorders of Sleep. HENRY M. LYMAN. pp. 229. W. T. Keener, Chicago, 1885.

To the present generation, books on sleep and its disorders should be specially welcome. This one opens with a discussion of the nature of sleep, giving an elementary statement of the theories of Obersteiner and Pflüger, then passes to insomnia and its treatment, and adds something on dreams, somnambulism, and hypnotism. The discussion is not very thorough, the most useful portion being the first ninety pages. Beyond this, the anecdotal method of presenting the facts is adopted, and while this is usually entertaining, it is not always very valuable. Perhaps our information regarding sleep has not yet fairly passed from the descriptive phase with which the science of any subject begins, but there is certainly enough experimental work to be discussed to furnish the basis for a somewhat less poetical and more scientific book than the one in question.